

EMAIL RECEIVED BY WARD CITY COUNCILOR DAVID MURPHY

----- Original Message -----

From: "Langlais, Linda" <LLanglais@EO.Kollmorgen.com>
To: <david.murphy8@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 05, 2006 10:23 AM
Subject: From a resident in your Ward

Dear Dave,

Attached is a letter I sent out back in 2001 that I would appreciate if you would read. I have attempted to address issues of traffic speed and pedestrian crossing since Jack FitzGerald was counselor. I have hit brick walls all along the way. I have even contacted the State Highway Dept. and gotten nowhere.

I am asking you to address the issue I have stated in the attachment since the issue has only gotten worse. With the ever increasing population and number of people out on bikes and walking, the corner of Berkshire Terrace/Straw Avenue and Locust Street is incredibly hazardous for anyone trying to cross. VERY FEW drivers honor the pedestrian law and MANY pedestrians assume right of way or get tired of waiting for someone to honor the law ... and those cars going the speed limit (which is too fast for the populated neighborhood) hardly have time to stop.

Please take this matter seriously (this corner is not the sedate corner it was years ago when your family lived nearby).

Thanks in advance for any efforts you can put forth. I would appreciate hearing a response and your intentions.

Respectfully.

Linda G. Langlais
268 Locust Street
Florence, MA 01062
413 586 9092

Linda G. Langlais
268 Locust Street
Florence, Ma 01062

February 22, 2001

Northampton Police Dept.
Traffic/Pedestrian Safety Office
Center Street
Northampton, Ma 01060

CC: Mayor Mary Claire Higgins, City Hall, Northampton, Ma. 01060

Subject: Unsafe Legal Speed on Rt. 9 (near Straw Ave/Berkshire Terrace)

Dear Sir/Ms,

I have communicated with my city counselor, Alex Ghiselin, regarding safety issues at the subject location. He recommended I advise you of my feelings. Therefore, let me express my opinion that the speed with which traffic LEGALLY comes up or down Rt. 9 at this intersection is absolutely too fast. The 40 MPH speed is truly unsafe ... especially for pedestrians trying to cross (but also for cars trying to come out of the side streets or cross Rt. 9).

Most drivers/cars simply do not honor the crosswalk laws at this intersection and enforcement can be difficult since there is not a stream of people like downtown. I live on the corner of Rt. 9 and Berkshire Terrace and see and have experienced many near-misses (not to mention the ones that didn't miss). It is almost second nature now when I hear screeching wheels or heavy thumping/crashing noises to pick up the phone and be prepared to call 911. Is there any chance you could make some headway in helping to solve one or both of these major issues?

- 1) Legal speed from 40 MPH to 25 MPH in this section of Rt. 9
- 2) Pedestrian Law signs and enforcement at this intersection

I have lived in this vicinity most of my life and although it has always been a less-than-perfect situation for crossing safely at this intersection, it is now, in my opinion, most definitely a fatality waiting to happen. I especially pray I or someone I know and love is not the statistic. But no one should have to be for something to change.

Thank you for your time to read this and whatever efforts you can put forth to help.

Respectfully,